

REMARKS

The above-referenced application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Office Action dated December 2, 2004. Claims 1, 10, 18, 21 and 24 have been canceled. Claims 2, 7-9, 11-14, 16-17, 19-20, 22-23 and 25 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 2-9, 11-17, 19-20, 22-23 and 25 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.


In accordance with the Office Action, Claims 1, 7-9, 10-12, 16-18, 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,356,106 to Greeff et al. Claims 1, 10, 18, 21 and 24 have been canceled.

In accordance with the Office Action, Claims 2-6, 13-15, 19-20, 22-23 and 25 drew objections for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Accordingly, Claims 2, 13, 14, 19, 22 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

1, 10, 18, 21 and 24 Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 2, 13-14, 19, 22-23 and 25 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above. Since Claims 3-9, 11-12, 15-17 and 20 each depend from one of the above claims and necessarily include each of the elements and limitations thereof, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated, and for reciting additional patentable subject matter. Thus, each of Claims 2-9, 11-17, 19-20, 22-23 and 25 is in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, reconsideration of the rejections and an early and favorable allowance of this case is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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